

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

VDFP NEW YEAR

Inside This Issue:

New Year Message:
Executive Director
and VFSB Chairman

VDFP Restructures
to Better Serve You

2 VDFP Offices Move
to New Locations

Calendar of Events

Happy 2004

Adam Thiel--Executive Director VDFP

I hope this issue of the VDFP Logbook finds you happy, healthy and starting work on your 2004 resolutions.

As we begin another year together, I think it worthwhile to reflect on everything we collectively accomplished in 2003: Hurricane Isabel came and went--providing another opportunity for Virginia fire fighters to show their mettle in the face of overwhelming destruction; we weathered the state budget crisis and distributed more than \$10 million dollars in aid-to-locality funds; fire fighters and emergency responders participated in almost 1,500 VDFP coordinated training events statewide, including more than 400 funded schools; and if our 3-year VFIRS reporting trend holds--Virginia fire departments will have responded to more than 400,000 calls.

While we cannot know exactly what the future holds, 2004 will undoubtedly bring more challenges for Virginia's fire and rescue service. Whatever may come, our resolution for the New Year is clearly stated in the Vision you helped us create:

"To be the internationally recognized and trusted leader in providing fire and emergency services support to communities throughout Virginia."

Happy New Year.

Phil Paquette--Chairman, VFSB Board

Happy New Year to all of you!

In 2003 Hurricane Isabel posed challenges of historic proportions. But Virginia's fire and emergency services responded with equal force; answering calls quickly and efficiently to protect the lives and property of Virginians. Not only responding to needs in your respective areas, but providing operational support in other regions of the state--thus fulfilling a key component of our mission.

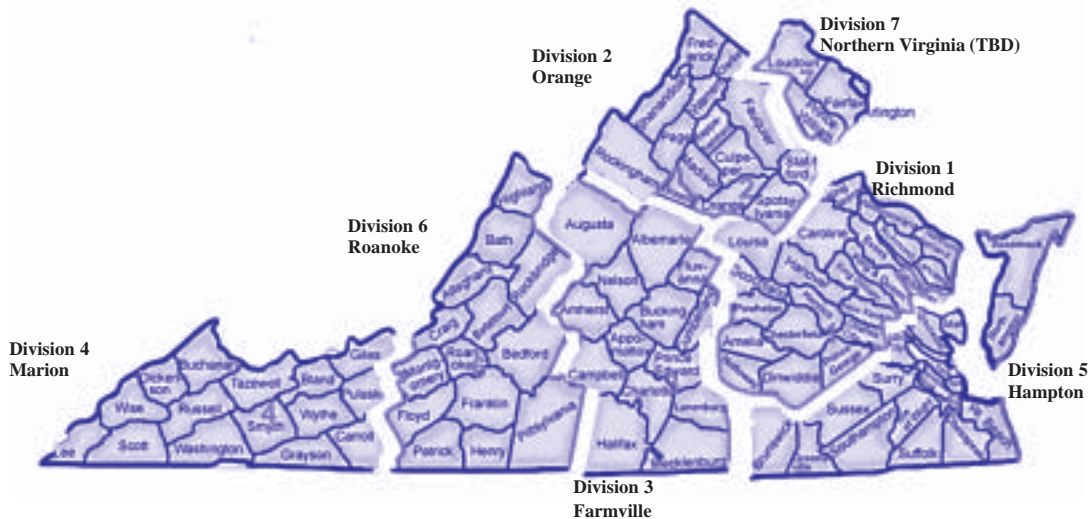
As we begin 2004, many departments will face challenges of a fiscal nature. This too is a challenge that requires us to work together. I encourage all localities and departments to combine training efforts, share resources and continue the team approach which has served us so well in the past. Several departments are already doing this by providing their surplus equipment to departments in need.

I also want to take this time to recognize the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the members of the Virginia Fire Services Board. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Again, I am proud of the work and dedication fire and emergency services has provided to the residents and visitors of the Commonwealth of Virginia. On behalf of the Fire Services Board, thank you for a job well done.

VDFP RESTRUCTURES FOR SUCCESS

Agency Expands to 7-Divisional Offices (Part 1)



In response to Secure Virginia Panel recommendations and in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, VDFP expands to seven divisions to increase the agency's overall effectiveness.

As of January 2004, the agency has shifted from five area offices to a seven office divisional structure. These seven divisions correspond with the established Virginia State Police divisions and promise more efficient divisional coverage; improved operational coordination and better access to programs for the fire and emergency services community, as well as the general public.

"The improvements resulting from the restructuring will be seen both internally and by the community at large," says Adam Thiel, VDFP Executive Director. "With the additional divisions, VDFP customers will see enhanced services, new training programs and an increased focus on operational coordination."

The fire and emergency services community will notice an immediate difference. The additional divisions allow for a redistribution of coverage areas; making it easier for divisional managers to interact and correspond with local fire departments.

More importantly, the more centrally located offices will enhance the agency's ability to provide operational support to communities in need during emergencies; a key component to providing fire and emergency services support to communities throughout Virginia.

Organizationally, the new structure divides the former Division of Training & Operations into two separate yet cohesive entities. Both of these branches will be supervised by a Branch Chief.

Larry McAndrews serves as Branch Chief of Operations. His job will include supervising the seven divisional VDFP offices; coordinating resource deployment for emergency & non-emergency operations; supervising preparation and deployment of the VDFP Mobile Incident Support Teams (MIST); and coordinating the VDFP Risk Management Program.

The newly established branch of Training & Technical Services will be headed by Branch Chief Billy Shelton. Shelton, recently promoted from ARFF & Curriculum Development, will supervise the statewide training programs VDFP offers including Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, Heavy and Technical Rescue, Incident Management, Quality Assurance & Certification, Logistics, and the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy.

"Having a separate organizational branch for Operations and one for Training & Technical Services will help us strengthen our training programs as well as provide an increased level of customer service through a balanced span of control for our Branch Chiefs" says Buddy Hyde, VDFP Chief Deputy Director.

"It will benefit the Virginia fire & rescue service tremendously to have these two related branches working together closely to provide high quality services across all VDFP activities."

VDFP RICHMOND--ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

Capital City Offices Consolidate

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs is gaining more than elbow room at its new facility.

VDFP's Richmond-based personnel have abandoned their segmented office space located blocks from the state capitol and have acquired office space at Virginia Technology Park in Glen Allen; just 18 miles north of the city.

In the summer of 1999, the Agency inhabited two spaces in downtown Richmond: a portion of the 18th Floor of the James Monroe Office Building and limited space in the formerly State owned and operated Train Shed of the Historic Main Street Station.

Since that time, the Station has reverted to City ownership and has been restored as a working historic landmark. This presented several unique opportunities including re-consolidating of the Richmond staff into one unified location.

On December 19, 2003, VDFP staff housed at the Main Street Station were moved to a temporary office space at 1003 Technology Park

Drive while awaiting conclusion of the permanent space. The permanent space is located right next door at 1005 Technology Park Drive. Once the permanent space is complete, the remaining staff will move.

When all renovations are complete, not only will it accommodate the entire Richmond staff, but will provide space for agency vehicles including the agency trailers which are currently housed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) at its Fulton Bottom property. There will also be ample parking for the agency's rolling stock, staff and visitors.

"We are taking the consolidation one day at a time," says Drew Wallner, Branch Chief of Administration & Support. "We have far reaching plans which will ultimately enhance our ability to serve our agency partners and provide the citizens of the Commonwealth with better customer support and cost savings resulting from increased efficiency.

Future plans for the new space include an integral classroom facility, a conference room, and spacious book store and media resource center.

ROANOKE OFFICE--NEW LOCATION

VDFP's Division 6—Roanoke Office begins 2004 in a new office.

VDFP's Division 6—Roanoke Office begins 2004 with a new title and a new office.

The former Central Virginia Area 4 Office has moved from its location of 12-years to a more customer-friendly facility.

"It was simply a matter of the existing space not meeting our needs," says Don Hansen, Division 6 Chief.

During the early '90s the then Central Virginia Area 4 Office sought an office to conduct business for communities between Bath and Mecklenburg Counties. The agency acquired space in the centrally located city of Roanoke.

In recent years, however, the Roanoke office has grown in responsibilities, students and subsequent school files. By contrast, operating space, customer access and parking was diminishing at a rapid rate.

On December 4, 2003 the staff moved to Valley Center Office Park which has ample parking, file space and is convenient to two major interstates. The new facility also has space for a classroom/meeting room. Most importantly, VDFP will save money in the new location.

"We are extremely pleased with the new space and looking forward to being able to increase our productivity and level of service to the community," added Don Hansen.

The change in title and location is a direct result of the Secure Virginia Panel's recommendation to expand to seven divisions in order to better distribute VDFP's span of control. These seven divisions correspond with the established State Police divisions.

The new address and contact information is:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Virginia Training Officer's Group Meeting
During VFCA Conference
February 27, 2004
Virginia Beach, VA

2004 Governor's Fire Services Awards
During VFCA Conference
February 27, 2004
Virginia Beach, VA

MARCH

Danville/Pittsylvania County Regional School
March 27-28, 2004
Danville, VA

APRIL

Southampton County Regional School
April 3-4, 2004
Franklin, VA

Roanoke Valley Regional Spring Fire School
April 24-25, 2004
Salem, VA

MAY

Pulaski Regional Fire School
May 22-23, 2004
Pulaski, VA

**Please log on to the VDFP website
and review the results of the
Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment
@ www.vafire.com**